

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 32nd Year

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FCC to use CORES number starting December 3

Number issued to those who have registered

By Thomas R. Fuszard, KF9PU, MRAC VEC

Beginning Dec. 3, the FCC will require VECs and VEs to collect CORES numbers (also known as FRN, for FCC registration number) from applicants when possible.

The estimated 35-40% of U.S. hams who have registered their Social Security Numbers have been issued an FRN, and need not take any further action. The rest are encouraged to register by Dec. 3. Failure to register, however, will not affect one's license status.

Set to launch officially on Dec. 3, the Commission Registration System, or CORES, provides an FRN for every person or organization doing business with the FCC. Eventually the FRN will be the only number needed to access files and conduct business with the FCC.

Many hams recall earlier discussions about ULS. Implemented throughout the wireless telecommunications bureau, the Universal Licensing System offers the speed of electronic filing and the convenience of 24/7 access to license files, among other benefits.

Amateur radio operators who wished to access their files first had to register their Social Security Numbers with the FCC. This could be accomplished in a number of ways, including taking action at a VEC/VE test session.

As the FCC's computer processed the license application, it also issued a replacement taxpayer ID number.

This new number, which starts with an "L," can be used for transactions or inquiries, and eliminates the concern about releasing a Social Security Number in public.

Since ULS went live in 1999, the FCC on at least two occasions has converted ULS files to CORES. During conversion, the files of license holders who have registered previously are incorporated into the CORES database. It is during this process that the FRN, a 10-digit number, is generated.

The latest conversion occurred on May 23; the next is scheduled to take place on Dec. 3.

To find out if you've registered your SSN—and therefore have been assigned a ULS number—go to the ULS web site at www.fcc.gov/wtb/gov. Click on "Search Licenses" found on the home page. On the next screen, click on "Continue." On the following screen provide your call sign where indicated, and click on the "Search" button at the bottom. (Note: Your browser may need to accept "cookies" for this inquiry.)

To register your SSN, click on the appropriate button on the home page. For your protection, you will be asked to provide a password during one step in this process.

Written requests may be sent to:

FCC
1270 Fairfield Rd.
Gettysburg, PA 17325

You may also call the FCC's Forms Distribution Center at (800) 418-3676.

Certain private web sites also list ULS numbers with other public license information. At QRZ.com, for example, you may find your ULS number by calling up your file and clicking on the "Detailed Info" link.

After the initial conversion in July, 1999, the FCC sent letters to registered hams that included their new FRN. If you have misplaced your letter or wish to register in CORES, contact the CORES department directly.

Online, visit the FCC's web site at www.fcc.gov, and click on the "Commission Registration System" link on the home page.

Requests are also accepted by phone to (877) 480-3201 and by mail to:

FCC
Attn: CORES Administrator
445 12th St., SW
Room CY-C140
Washington, D.C. 20554

AB-368 passes Assembly on voice vote, is now in Senate

Assembly Bill 368, which would codify as state law the FCC's Doctrine of Limited Pre-Emption regarding amateur radio antenna towers, passed the Assembly October 2 on a voice vote. The Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs voted the bill to the Assembly floor for a vote on Tuesday, September 11.

The bill, drafted in March at the request of a constituent, went to that committee, and a public hearing was held on the bill May 15. About seven amateurs gave testimony at the hearing. Rep. Joan Wade (R-42) requested the bill be drafted, but resigned from the Assembly August 31. She requested Rep. Luther Olsen (R-41) to "take charge" of AB-368, and she was in the Assembly chamber October 2 to receive an award from the members of the Assembly for her dedicated service, and AB-

368 was passed while she was in the chamber.

Opposition came from the League of Municipalities and the City of Milwaukee.

The bill is now in the Senate Committee on Universities, Housing and Government Operations, chaired by Sen. Mark Meyer. Committee members are Senators Meyer, (chairperson), Moore, Grobschmidt, Hansen, Ellis, Huelsman, and Zein.

If Sen. Meyer decides it should, the bill will have another public hearing before that full committee. Then, if the committee decides, they will, in executive session, vote it out for floor action in the Senate.

(The full history of the bill thus far and an editorial are in this issue.)

-Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

IARU Administrative Council Calls for End to Morse Requirement

Saying that it was "setting aside any previous relevant decisions," the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council this week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies -- as an interim measure -- to seek Morse code testing speeds "not exceeding five words per minute."

The resolution was adopted during the IARU Administrative Council meeting October 6-8 in Guatemala City, Guatemala, which followed the 14th General Assembly of IARU Region 2.

The Council's Morse resolution took into consideration the approval -- without opposition -- of ITU-R Recommendation M.1544. That document sets out the minimum qualifications of radio amateurs. The Council also said it recognizes that Morse code "continues to be an effective and efficient mode of communication used by many thousands of radio amateurs" but that Morse code proficiency as requirement for an HF amateur license "is no longer relevant to the healthy future of Amateur Radio."

The principal business at the Administrative Council session was to review the status

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**Happy
Halloween!**



WHAT'S HAPPENING

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Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 •
kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001 AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001 Sponsor: The Milwaukee Repeater Club Waukesha County Expo Center Forum buildings, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission: \$5.00, tables \$15 per 8 ft. table Electricity: \$15. Pancake breakfast 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Food available all day. Info: <http://www.execpc.com/~mrc> Email: mrc@execpc.com Telephone: 1.262.367.3953

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2001, Davenport, IA. Contact: <http://www.gwlt.com/hamfest>.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2002 30th Annual Mid-Winter Swapfest Sponsored by West Allis Radio Amateur Club Waukesha County Expo Center Forum 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414.425.3649 Web: <http://www.WARAC.org>

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2002 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY Sponsored by West Allis Radio Amateur Club Info: <http://www.WARAC.org> **SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2002 Madison Swapfest** Mandt Community Center 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison WI 53708-8890 Info line: 608.245.8890

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2002: The Ozaukee Radio Club Twenty Fourth Annual Swapfest at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County Highway I, Cedarburg, WI. Contact: Gene Szurdowitz, KB9VJP, ORC Swapfest Chairman, W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1555, 262 377-6792. www.qsl.net/orc

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2002. MARA Swapfest, Stoughton, WI (Madison Area) Contact: MATA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (606) 245-8890

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2002. Eau Claire Hamfest, Eau Claire County Exposition Center, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, (715) 838-9108. Kg9ra@ecarc.org



CLUB MEETINGS

ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Superior, WI Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT
Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number is posted in the Today In The Union (TITU) board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608)

263-4685. Email: w9lag@aol.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS)

Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI second Wednesday.

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, or email kg9ra@ecarc.org Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Menomonee Falls, WI
Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Fond du Lac, WI
Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Madison, WI
Meetings: First and third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. PLatour428@aol.com Web: <http://www.w9zl.com/>

GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Dubuque, Iowa Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/> Information or questions to: N0hdo@aol.com

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION
Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB
Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in De Pere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Greater Green Lake County area.
Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION
Racine, WI
Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. New meeting location to be announced.

M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Menominee, MI
General meetings: Monthly, second Thursday, 7 p.m., cafeteria, BAMC basement, Tenth Avenue, Menominee, MI.

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560 kebnetter@palacenet.net

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TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN, Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscription Rate

1 year \$13.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. **THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.**

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

Amateurs and guests welcome. 2M repeater: 147.00, + offset. 70cm repeater: 444.075 Sunday net: 7 p.m., 147.00 repeater. Address: P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, MI 54143.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad)

Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) Additional information: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredw6bsf@lakefield.net.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. (starting in January, time is 7 p.m.), Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> Email: w9rh@arrl.net

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION

Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/> Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net

NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Rhineland, WI
Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site. <http://www.freelyellow.com/members7/nwarc>. All visitors welcome.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB

Ozaukee County area, WI
Meetings: Second Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center. Information: <http://www.qsl.net/orc>.

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Wisconsin Chapter 55
Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Roni Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N.Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. mailto: rryokes@execpc.com

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162
Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m.; usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB

Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m.,
New meeting location to be announced.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.)

Oshkosh, WI
Meetings: Third Saturday monthly, locations vary. "R.A.W. is a family oriented club. Most of its meetings revolve around family doings and outings. We are always looking for good people to join us.

If you are a ham or interested in ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662, or Duane Ritschke, W9UDX, (920) 233-1684.

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonic, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Onalaska, WI
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of SHELL LAKE, WI

Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Auctions in March and October.

SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER

No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu

ST. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS

Hudson, WI
Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC)

Medford, WI
Meetings: Usually first Thursday, 7 p.m. sharp. Usual location: Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross Office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford. Talkin: 147.15 (+600) MHz. Amateurs and guests are welcome. ARES Net: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., 147.15 (+600) repeater. Information: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

"CQ First Tue.": Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. "CQ Third Fri.": Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 8 p.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Avenue, entrance is at rear of building on alley. Information: <http://www.warac.org>.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Wausau, WI Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600). Web: <http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS

Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Baraboo, WI

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Room 18, Baraboo Civic Center at 124 Second Street. Information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

We cannot carry the full listing of the exam sites and information every month in BSSS. We are listing the date of Examinations given in Wisconsin and the adjoining area above.

For the full listing of examination information, directions to the sites and contact information please see last month's issue of BSSS or check on our web site at <http://www.smokesigs.org>

October 06, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 06, 2001	St. Paul, MN
October 06, 2001	Racine, WI
October 11, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
October 12, 2001	Sioux City, IA
October 13, 2001	Madison, WI
October 13, 2001	Blaine, MN
October 16, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
October 20, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 20, 2001	Eau Claire, WI
October 20, 2001	Loves Park, IL
October 20, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
October 27, 2001	Bloomington, MN
October 27, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 27, 2001	Tomahawk, WI
November 03, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 03, 2001	St. Paul, MN
November 03, 2001	Racine, WI
November 03, 2001	Menomonie, WI
November 04, 2001	Kaukauna, WI

November 10, 2001	Madison, WI
November 10, 2001	Blaine, MN
November 13, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
November 17, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
November 17, 2001	Loves Park, IL
November 17, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
November 20, 2001	Sheboygan, WI
November 24, 2001	Bloomington, MN
November 24, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
December 01, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 01, 2001	St. Paul, MN
December 01, 2001	Adams, WI
December 01, 2001	Racine, WI
December 07, 2001	Sioux City, IA
December 08, 2001	Madison, WI
December 08, 2001	Blaine, MN
December 13, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
December 15, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 15, 2001	Onalaska, WI
December 15, 2001	Loves Park, IL
December 15, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
December 15, 2001	La Crosse, WI
December 18, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
December 22, 2001	Bloomington, MN
January 19, 2002	Eau Claire, WI
January 26, 2002	Appleton, WI
April 20, 2002	Eau Claire, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
(September through April)	
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except March, June, August & December)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	

(Continued on page 11)

From the Section Manager

Don Michalski, W9IXG



WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9-IXG. BWN 3985 0600 W9RCW. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WSBN 3985 1730 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 N9BDL. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW.

With deep regret, I inform you of the passing of Rev. Cletus Abts, KA9ICP. He was a member of the Wisconsin Rapids ARC. Jack Douville, WB9GTX, 80, passed away. Jack was a member of Sheboygan County ARC. Robert Shady, 75, KB9XR, and Carl Kerstetter, W9NVM, and Maurice Soldner, K9LGL, are Silent Keys.

Our thanks to the NorWesCo ARES-

/RACES team who spearheaded the efforts of a total of 65 amateurs, all under the leadership of Wes Jones, N9PHS, EC/DEC, for their efforts in the Burnett/Washburn county tornado disaster. These amateurs spent 15 days in the relief effort. We greatly appreciate their hard work!

For health reasons, I accepted Jim Romelfanger's, K9ZZ, resignation as the Wisconsin section PIC and OBS. Jim has given many years of service to the section for which we are extremely grateful. We give him our best wishes.

The Greater Milwaukee DX Association, GMDXA, has elected new officers for the 2001 and 2002 year. The new President is Wayne Long, K9YNF, the new V.P. is Bill Ribish, W9LR, and the new secretary-treasurer is Ken Boston, W9GA.

Many of our new Technician class amateurs are looking for help in learning Morse Code. If you have some free time, please volunteer to assist them. Consider it a small step taken to help preserve CW!

73!! Don, W9IXG

Where no one had gone before



This photo was taken by an Apollo 11 astronaut, in orbit around the moon, looking back toward his home planet, Earth, about 230,000 miles distant. Apollo 11 was the first Apollo mission to actually land the Lunar Module (LEM) in the Sea of Tranquility on the lunar surface - and manually, as the computer was steering the module into a boulder field. Neil Armstrong made mankind's first tentative step on the surface of another "planetary" body, followed by Ed "Buzz" Aldrin. Michael Collins remained in the Command Module in lunar orbit. The first step on the moon's surface was seen by billions back on Earth.

Looking for a Wisconsin
ham's email address?
<http://www.bsos.org>



The Milwaukee Repeater Club Presents... our 17th Annual Swapfest!

AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001

HAM RADIO, COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS

Saturday November 3, 2001
8:00 am. to 2:00 pm.

Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings
N1 W24848 Northview Rd., Waukesha WI

Admission: \$5.00
Tables: \$15.00 per 8' table
Electricity: \$15.00
VENDOR LOADING 5:00 AM



AMATEUR RADIO & ELECTRONICS

Items such as: New and used Ham and CB radios, batteries, antennas, scanners, test equipment, parts, connectors, electronic components, tubes, wire, coax, cable, switches, computers, software, and much more.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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LATE AGAIN

This issue is probably the latest ever, not an enviable record. A parade of problems came along, the worst of which was a medical procedure that is the apparent cause of a very painful neck, right arm, and shoulder. A week past, and it still hurts. We'll keep trying to get on schedule. We apologize for the inconvenience.

IARU: End Morse requirement?

Continued from front page

of IARU preparations for WRC-2003. Agenda items of concern to amateurs include, among others, the harmonization of amateur and broadcasting allocations near 7 MHz, the adequacy of HF broadcasting allocations below 10 MHz, and possible revisions to Article S25 of the international Radio Regulations.

Among other things, Article S25 spells out Amateur Radio operator qualifications. It now provides that Amateur Radio license applicants demonstrate the ability "to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear, texts in Morse code signals" for operation below 30 MHz. The IARU Administrative Council supports the revision of Article S25 and the incorporation by reference of Recommendation M.1544.

The IARU Council selected the theme of the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2002, as "Amateur Radio: Continuing Innovation in Communication Technology."

- ARRL

From the editor....

AB-368

As you read on page 1, Assembly Bill 368, to codify FCC's Doctrine of Limited Federal Pre-emption over amateur radio tower regulations, has cleared the Wisconsin Assembly and has moved into the Senate and into a committee.

As the "first order of business" for this column, a very big thank-you goes to everyone who answered the request to email, call, and FAX their representatives on Monday, October 1. The Assembly floor reading and vote had been put on the calendar for October 2. Late Friday, September 28, just at the start of the weekend, an email went to all legislators from an organization opposing AB-368. Well, shucks. I didn't know at first how to approach this. I decided to send an email of my own, and it went to about 40 addresses.

Those addresses included Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, and State Government Liaison Jim Lackore, AD9X. They neatly picked up the ball there. Jim wrote a memo to state hams, and Don had it mailed to all ARRL members in the Wisconsin Section on Monday, October 1.

And that's when the radio amateurs in Wisconsin ran with the ball, with a nice, steady stream of emails, phone calls, and FAXes rolling into the statehouse. The next day, October 2, AB-368 passed on a voice vote. Look at the history of the bill (printed below) and see what remarkable things were done that day. That's thanks to Wisconsin's hams and to Assemblypersons who know us and know of our work. The ultimate beneficiary, especially in these very dangerous times, will be the citizens of Wisconsin.

It's unfortunate that these organizations - who indi-

rectly do represent Wisconsin's citizens - can't see the forest for the trees.

If we are called to communications duty, we are there, and the job gets done. The taxpayers don't have to shuck out a penny, they get the benefit of what we do best - communicate on their behalf when needed - our time (free) use of our equipment (free) and our expertise (free). Instead of opposing this bill, those organizations would far better invest their money and time in supporting the bill. At the bottom of SEC Stan Kaplan's letterhead, it says "We communicate - when nobody else can". That is the truth.

With AB-368, we are doing nothing more than trying to be sure we have that communication ability when it's needed.

We are not the stereotypical "radio dudes" with antennas poking out our ears. Far from it. We work hard to study and pass examinations to get our licenses, and there are several levels, each higher in difficulty.

As to towers, safety seems to be a concern, but it need not be. The ham who erects a tower after spending thousands of dollars to buy it (yup, they are not cheap!) certainly does not want it to fall, and it's damned rare if they do. It will be installed according to the manufacturers' engineering specifications, right down to the amount of concrete in which the base section is placed. And on the rare occasion one comes down, it's nearly always within the height of the tower.

I was never more proud to be a ham than when I read of the hundreds who went to communications duty near "ground zero" on September 11 on Manhattan's Black Day. My "kin" worked there more than three weeks in a hazardous area. Hundreds more worked right at the Pentagon. There was the Siren tornado - 600 man-hours of communications, including Skywarn spotters who first saw the tornado, tracked it, and helped in relief efforts afterward.

So, again, from W9IXG, from AD9X, and from the public who you serve, thank you to all. Now to the Senate,

Silent Key

Michael J. Plichta, KB9OSB, 61, Milwaukee, died September 23, 2001. He was a retired engineer for the City of Milwaukee. Memorials appreciated to Fr. Gene's HELP Center.

- Rich Regent, K9GDF

and hopefully support from the Committee and on to the Senate floor. Special thanks to retired Rep. Joan Wade for introducing the bill, to her aides, to Rep. Luther Olsen, and aide Cari Lee. We'll run another thank-you list later after we compile a complete one.

- Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

About Badger State Smoke Signals

From the publisher,
Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN

Due to income not rising to meet our increasing costs, we find that we will be unable to continue to produce and distribute *Badger State smoke Signals* as we have done in the past. Production, printing and postage costs have increased since the last increase in rates and the USPS has recently announced that an increase in postage rates is coming soon. At the same time subscription and advertising income has declined, resulting in a deficit in operations for the past few years.

We do not wish to discontinue producing one of the best statewide newsletters in the nation, but not many options are available. We could increase our present rates for subscriptions and advertising. However, we would have to more than double our rates and do not believe that this would be the best way.

The solution we are going to implement is to go to bi-monthly production. There will be 6 issues per year instead of the present 12. The subscription and advertising rates will remain the same as they are now. We will continue to produce a monthly BSSS for the balance of this year, and starting in 2002, BSSS will become a bi-monthly publication.

We already have several of our columns, features and stories posted on our web site (<http://www.bsss.org>) for those needing current information. Many of our supporting clubs already have web sites with their club minutes and local news posted there, and we will post links to their web sites or their club news on our web site if they do not have a web site.

With the support of our current subscribers, supporting clubs and advertisers, we will continue to produce a newsletter that is the envy of most other states. At the same time, we will be working on increasing our subscription and advertising base. We are working on a few ideas along with this in mind.

73, Ken, K9EN

History of Assembly Bill 368

ASSEMBLY BILL 368

An Act to create 59.69 (4f), 60.61 (3d) and 62.23 (7) (hf) of the statutes; relating to: the authority of cities, villages, towns, and counties to regulate amateur radio antennas and antenna support structures. (FE)

2001

05-03.	A. Introduced by Representatives Wade, Albers, Kestell, Kreuser, Loeffelholz, Nass, Olsen, Plouff, Schneider, Seratti, Starzyk and Townsend; cosponsored by Senators Risser, Schultz, Grobschmidt and Cowles.	
05-03.	A. Read first time and referred to committee on Urban and Local Affairs	225
05-15.	A. Public hearing held.	
05-17.	A. Fiscal estimate received.	
07-17.	A. Representative Stone added as a coauthor	366
09-12.	A. Executive action taken.	
09-17.	A. Report passage recommended by committee on Urban and Local Affairs, Ayes 5, Noes 1	390
09-17.	A. Referred to committee on Rules	390
09-26.	A. Placed on calendar 10-2-2001 by committee on Rules.	
10-02.	A. Read a second time	410
10-02.	A. Ordered to a third reading	411
10-02.	A. Rules suspended	411
10-02.	A. Read a third time and passed	411
10-02.	A. Representative Carpenter added as a coauthor	411
10-02.	A. Ordered immediately messaged	411
10-03.	S. Received from Assembly	389
10-03.	S. Read first time and referred to committee on Universities, Housing, and Government Operations	389



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OCTOBER 2001

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 95. Get That Firewall, NOW!

What is a firewall? Why do I need it? How much does it cost? PLEASE read the answers to these three questions. In the end, you will be convinced you need one. You absolutely do! Get one. I will suggest one that is free.

The name firewall came from the description of the sheet metal partition between an automobile's engine compartment and the driver's feet. It was named in early automotive days because it actually kept the driver's feet from being toasted if a fire occurred in the engine compartment, or even from just a heat buildup without an actual fire. Even today, that sheet metal partition in a car is still called a firewall.

In the computer world, it describes software, hardware or combination of software and hardware that protects a computer when connected to a network. The Internet is a network. However, here is a simpler definition that applies to we average home users of the Internet.

A firewall can be a single software package, that when installed in our home computer, can protect it from unwanted activity while we are on the Internet. That unwanted activity could be theft of any data in the computer, including financial data, social security numbers, passwords, credit card numbers, or any other personal data. Anything, in any kind of file in your computer, can be extracted and stolen, covertly (without your knowledge), while you are on the Internet. A firewall can prevent that. It can also prevent programs or other files from being moved from the Internet to your hard drive without your knowledge and consent. That includes virus-containing programs or any other kind of file. Very simply, a firewall is like a traffic cop that will not allow movement of anything into or out of your computer, unless you tell him that it is OK. That is good, is it not? Darn right it is. However, be advised, that if you tell him it is OK for a file to be downloaded, he will allow it even if it contains a virus. A firewall is not a virus checker, just a traffic cop.

You see, every computer has hidden ports ("doors") that can be accessed from outside, without any indication of that access showing on your screen. That is, nothing will indicate to you that one or more of your ports are being used. When connected to the Internet, let's say to get your email and send a few messages, outsiders with the right software can send stuff through those ports, either way, without your knowing about it, while you are getting or sending your email. A good firewall (the cop) will watch all those doors; and if someone tries to open one, will hold it shut and notify you of who is trying to access the door. If you tell him OK, he will let that door open. If you tell him NO, he will keep it shut and nothing can get through it either way.

Well, that should give you a feel for what a firewall is. It should also indicate why you need one. Even if you keep no personal data on your machine, the addition of a nefarious program or bit of executable code can modify or even destroy your operating system, thus making your computer unusable. Everyone who connects to the Internet, via modem or cable or any other way, needs a firewall. Everyone, without exception, needs one.

You can buy one. Symantec (Norton Utilities) makes a good one. However, why spend money when you do not need to? The very first firewall written for the average user, which also happens to be the very best firewall available anywhere (in my opinion), is free for personal use. ZoneAlarm is its name, and you can get it from <http://www.zonelabs.com>. They make one which you can pay for (ZoneAlarm Pro, about \$40), which you will read about when you open their home page at the address above. However, if you scroll down a bit, near the bottom of the page, the free version will be described. I have both - the free version on one computer, and the paid-for version on another. Except for some added bells and whistles in the paid-for version, they are identical. The "engine" (traffic cop) is identical.

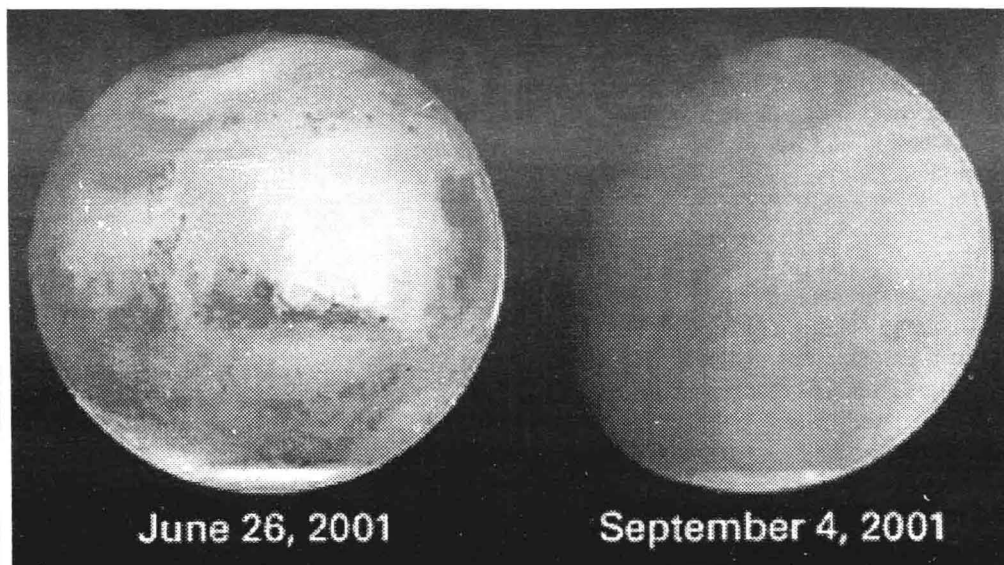
My advice is to download the free version and install it, ASAP. Once you do, the "cop" will start watching your ports, and will notify you with a pop-up message whenever someone tries to get in a back door. Rest assured, a pop-up notice will appear in the first half hour you are connected to the net. Maybe even in the first 5 minutes! Maybe even in the first 10 seconds! **Your ports are being probed all the time. However, without a firewall, you simply do not know it.**

ZoneAlarm has some other nice touches. It will examine email messages as they come into your machine. If a message contains an attachment with potentially dangerous features (like a program that will run automatically), it will rename the attachment so that it cannot be run. If the attachment turns out to be bona fide, you can always rename it back, so nothing is lost. Otherwise, it will not run and you can delete it. This is a very nice safety feature, indeed.

The program has a nice control panel, in which you can tell the "cop" what your rules are. That is, you can tell ZoneAlarm that Netscape has permission to access the net, but that RealPlayer does not. That will allow you to use Netscape to get your mail or to send it, but it will prevent RealPlayer from covertly reporting to its parent company who you are and what kind of machine you have (which it will most certainly do, without your knowledge or consent, if you do not have a firewall). Finally, the nicest thing about ZoneAlarm is that it is configured correctly when you install it, and you do not need to alter stuff unless you want to. On occasion, it will pop up and ask you a question about a program, such as "Do you want Windows Critical Update to access the Internet"? Answer it yes or no (NO if you are not sure!). If you also click the "Do not ask this question in the future" box, it will assume your answer applies next time, as well, and it will not bother you again. Nicely done, indeed!

I hope I have answered your questions, and that you see the need for a firewall. Try ZoneAlarm and you will be convinced that you need it, merely from the number of covert probes it stops (covert probes that you do not know about, until you install it). Ask our Editor, Jim Romelfanger (K9ZZ) if it is worth installing. He will give you a

Scientists track "perfect storm" on Mars



A pair of eagle-eyed NASA spacecraft -- the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) and Hubble Space Telescope -- are giving amazed scientists a ringside seat to the biggest global dust storm seen on Mars in several decades.

The Martian dust storm, larger by far than any seen on Earth, has raised a cloud of dust that has engulfed the entire planet for the past three months. As the Sun warms the airborne dust the upper atmospheric temperature has been raised by about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. This abrupt onset of global warming in Mars' thin atmosphere is happening at the same time as the planet's surface has chilled precipitously under the constant dust shroud.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime," said Hubble observer Dr. James Bell of Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. "We have a phenomenal, unprecedented view from these two spacecraft."

"The beauty of Mars Global Surveyor is that we have almost two Martian years of continuous coverage and this is the first time during the mission that we have seen such a storm," added Dr. Richard Zurek of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

This storm is being closely watched by the team operating NASA's 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft, which is heading toward a rendezvous with the Red Planet later this month. The Odyssey team plans to "toe-dip" its way into the Martian atmosphere, gradually deepening its pass through the atmosphere until the desired drag levels are found. A warm atmosphere "puffs up," creating more drag on the spacecraft.

The thermal emission spectrometer on Global Surveyor has been tracking the blooming dust storm by measuring temperature changes that trace the amount and location of dust in the atmosphere. Both Hubble and Global Surveyor caught the storm erupting in late June, which was unusually early in the spring of the Martian northern hemisphere compared to previous large storms. Hubble doesn't have continuous Mars coverage, but does show the whole planet in a single snapshot and shows the full range of dust activity from sunrise to sunset.

Planetary scientists photograph the entire planet every day using the Global Surveyor's camera. This has allowed them to pinpoint the actual location of places where dust was being raised, and see it migrate and interact with other Martian weather phenomena and surface topography. This also has provided them an unprecedented, detailed look at how storms start and "blossom" across the orange, arid planet.

"What we have learned is that this is not a single, continuing storm, but rather a planet-wide series of events that were triggered in and around the Hellas basin," said Dr. Mike Malin of Malin Space Science Systems, Inc., San Diego, lead investigator on the camera. "What began as a local event stimulated separate storms many thousands of kilometers away. We saw the effects propagate very rapidly across the equator -- something quite unheard of in previous experience -- and move with the Southern Hemisphere jet stream to the east."

"By the time the first tendrils of dust injected into the stratosphere by the initial events circumnavigated the Southern Hemisphere, which took about a week, separate storms were raging in three main centers. The most intriguing observation is that the regional storm in Claritas/Syria has been active every day since the end of the first week of July," said Malin.

After three months, the storm is beginning to wane. The planet's shrouded surface has cooled, and this allowed the winds to die down and the fine dust to begin settling. However, Mars is approaching the closest point of its orbit to the Sun. Once the atmosphere begins to clear, the return of unfiltered solar radiation may trigger additional high winds and kick up the dust all over again. This "one-two punch" has been seen in previous Mars storms for centuries.

"Understanding global dust storms, such as that which we have witnessed this year, is a vital part of the science goals of the Mars Exploration Program," said Dr. James Garvin, NASA's lead scientist for Mars exploration, NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. "Such extreme climate events could potentially provide clues to how climate changes operate on Mars, now and in the past, and provide linkages to the record of sediments on the planet."

Mars Global Surveyor is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, D.C.

- JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

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WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61	0130	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT) (Menomonie Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					

Section Traffic Manager's Report Wisconsin August 2001

Massaging Your Message

Here's a brief description of the parts of a radiogram preamble. It's intended for those new to traffic handling as well as a quick review for those active in the NTS. Feel free to copy and pass this along to your technician classes. In fact, if you'd like a class or club presentation "live and in person" (as opposed to what?), let me know and I'll check my schedule.

When sending a formal radiogram, we begin with the preamble, that is the part of the message that is not the message but helps tremendously in its accurate delivery. The preamble includes a message number, precedence, handling instructions, station of origin, check, place of origin, time, and date.

The message number is assigned by the station of origin, the one who prepares and sends the message for the first time. An operator can begin with number one at the first of the year, the first of the month, or at any time it's convenient. The important part of the numbering is to keep it sequential and keep track.

Recently, some operators have chosen to number with decimals, dashes, or letters included. Although this may be an easy system for an originating station, it could lead to some troubles with traffic in the NTS if relaying stations don't pay very close attention. For example, what on voice might be said as, "Number one decimal one. Routine." On CW, would sound like 1R1R and could be confusing since the receiving station might interpret it as a repeat of the number and precedence instead of just the message number.

Perhaps it is best to keep it simple, if you can.

The precedence, helps the message along the way. Of course, if it's an EMERGENCY precedence (always spelled out, not abbreviated), the message will be handled expeditiously on every net, cleared first and with all possible speed. If the message is of Inquiry or Welfare precedence, it will be handled before those that are Routine. The decision about a message's precedence is the originating station's. Of course, the operator may be told what precedence to use by an

official or agency sending the message. Under normal circumstances, almost all messages are classified as Routine.

Handling instructions are intended for the delivering station. They're optional, but helpful. They range from HXA (Collect landline authorized by addressee within XX.miles) to HXG (If toll or expense is involved, cancel message and service originating station). Check your FSD-218 (the famous pink card) for the whole list.

Next, in the preamble, is the call of the originating station. If you are preparing the message for its first transmission, that's your callsign. Following the call is the check, the number of words or groups in the text - just the text, not the addressee, address, signature, or anything else. An easy way to keep track of the number of words is to write the text with five words per line and count the lines. It works.

The place of origin is the location from which the message comes - not necessarily the same as your QTH. For example, if I receive a message for Whitewater, deliver it, and get a reply, the place of origin for my return message is Whitewater - even though I'm in Fort Atkinson. If Don, W9IXG, asks me to send a message on his behalf, the place of origin is Madison (his QTH), even though the message will first be sent from my shack.

The time may be included in the precedence if it's important. It's likely to be there in disaster and welfare traffic, not likely for routine traffic. The date is when the message is written - even if it isn't sent that day. It will match with any time given. And that's what I'm out of for this month's report.

73 - Denny, K9LGU / STM

MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY AUGUST 2001

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1222	1599	2325	31	W9IHW for W9RCW
BEN	448	60	785	31	KE9VU
WSBN	541	66	848	31	K9FHI
WNN	142	10	330	31	KB9ROB
WSSN	209	25	323	31	N9BDL
WIN/E	199	77	324	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	215	58	334	31	W9UW
TOTALS	2976	1895	5269	217	

Continued on page 8

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Greg Barr, K9MCZ, WVRA Secretary

k9mcz@arrl.net

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes 4 September 2001 Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by
President Mike Wild - KB9DED

Program: The program for this meeting consisted of a very informative presentation on Portable Repeaters by Mark, N9MEA. Mark discussed and demonstrated the VHF / UHF portable repeater that he built. It consists of three metal enclosures or "boxes" with quick disconnect cabling between them. Box 1 is the duplexer box. Box 2 is the RF box with radios and power amplifiers. Box 3 is the power supply. The repeater can also run on battery power (5w) and external power (25w UHF, 50w VHF) for emergency use. Club members have the frequencies and the portable repeaters have been used for tests and for ARES nets. Use 114.8 PL when programming your radios. Mark will have the repeaters available for club use during any future emergencies or club events that would require their use.

Members present: N9SDL, N9SDI, N9PHC, N3FDE, KB9ZOF, WA9NBC, N9NRC, N9WPH, N9NMH, KB9DED, N9UAG, KB9RXA, KB9STB, KB9YPS, KB9OPQ, KB9VBR, KB9PVI, N9MEA, N9NRA, K9MCZ, K9PT, KC9NW.

Secretary's report

Previous meeting notes as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site (home.dwave.net/~wvra/). Motion to accept: N9WPH. Second: N9NMH.

Treasurer's report

Motion to accept: N9NRA. Second: KB9STB.

Old Business

1. Club members will participate in the DNR Mock Fire exercise at Big Flats, WI on Saturday, September 8, 2001. Club members are planning for this event as if it was a Field Day exercise. They will be taking radios, tower sections, antennas, etc., and APRS equipment. Contact Mark, N9MEA, for information.

2. Club members are also planning an outing to the September 22-23 HamFest at Grayslake, IL. It is called Radio Expo 2001 and will be held at the Lake County Fairgrounds. Contact Mike, KB9VBR, for information.

3. We are still looking for volunteers to help build a colinear vertical antenna for our 220 MHz repeater. The repeater will then be put back on the air when this work is completed. The date will be set soon. If you want to help, contact Mike, KB9VBR.

4. We are still looking for help and equipment donations to help outfit our club trailer. A list is in circulation for equipment needed/desired. See Matt, N9NMH, if you would like to donate an item or if you can volunteer any time in helping to upgrade the trailer. The trailer itself needs new lights, tires, and some bodywork. The plan is to work on the trailer over the winter and have it be completed by next Spring.

5. An APRS update meeting was conducted along with a tour of Matt's (N9NMH) Weather/APRS station. The group formulated an SSID Plan for use in our area. Please visit the WVRA Web Site for more APRS information: (home.dwave.net/~wvra/)

6. The Ham Radio Licensing Class scheduled to start in September is on hold for approximately one month. We are trying to get more participants to sign up for this class as we only have three signed up at present. We are also looking into doing a one full weekend training and testing session. Contact Kim, N9SDL, for details or information.

New Business

1. The WVRA encourages all to visit our Club Website at home.dwave.net/~wvra/. Also, Scott KB9PVI, is looking for short items from members to include on the club website. (minimum of 1 paragraph). Please send to him at winterscott@hotmail.com.

2. A sign-up sheet was sent around for interest in participating in the annual Halloween Patrol. More information will be discussed at the October Club Meeting or contact Mark, N9MEA.

3. A brief discussion took place on setting deviation on TNC's for use on APRS. See p. 2-18 of the ARRL APRS Book or see Mark N9MEA.

4. Photo I.D.s will be completed at future club meetings as soon as Mike, KB9DED, gets a new printer. We will then bring digital camera, computer/printer, and laminator to the meetings to complete this project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Motion to adjourn: N3FDE. Second: N9NRC.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 2, 2001, at 7 p.m. at the Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the employee parking lot on the West side of the building. Call in on the 2m club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.64 (pl 114.8).

October Program: Radio Mobile VHF Propagation Software Demo by Mike KB9VBR.

Respectfully submitted:
Greg Barr - K9MCZ (k9mcz@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



Sunday, October 21st is our Chapter's Annual Meeting and Election. We will gather and dine at Bentley's American Grille in the Marriott Hotel, 7111 Washington Avenue, Racine beginning with a 12:30 PM Brunch. After the meal we will select three new directors. Our nominating committee has offered the following candidates for our consideration: Spencer Clope, W9LDH; Ron Fox, K9AKH; Lloyd Gorski, WB9RGO; and Bob Jensen, W0WLN. The three new Directors will meet with the other four Directors to choose next year's President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Our November meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19th at the Wustum Museum starting with a tour at 6 PM and our business meeting at 7 PM. I am waiting a call back from the Museum staff to confirm this date.

The 2001 QCWA Cruise Convention will depart from Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Saturday, October 27th at 5 PM. After meeting with the ship's Captain and Communication Officer, we will commence a low-band operation from the ship's aft deck sometime after 5 PM on Sunday, October 28th.

We will use QCWA's Special Event Call W2MM and begin on or near QCWA's net frequency of 14.347 MHz; and try to be on daily at 2000Z. Dial around and try to hookup with gang at sea. Look for us on the 20, 15 and 10-meter bands. I'll try to file daily reports via email to BSSS's editor for possible selection into the November Smoke Signals. (Possibly also on the BSSS web page at <http://www.bsss.org>.)

73, Larry McCalvy, President

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

The Mancorad Radio Club Sept. meeting was held on the 12th at the club shack. President Fred (W6BSF) opened the meeting at 7:35 with a moment of silent prayer for all victims of the Sept. 11th terrorists attack.

Treasurer Roger (W9NPX) gave the treasurers monthly report. It was accepted by unanimous vote. Secretary Theresa (KB9KXE) gave the Aug. meeting minutes which were also approved.

Everyone was once again reminded that next month is voting in of officers and board members. A committee of Travis (KB9YRC), Bob (KB9INK) and Red (N9GHE) will be calling all members prior to the meeting asking if they would like to run for an office. Please consider it.

Pres. Fred brought a bill from Tom for the USS Cobia certificates and hand outs which he made for the Cobia event. Between paper, ink and postage the total came to 196.00. 700 copies were made. The board recommended we send him 200.00 All members agreed.

Pres. Fred attended a meeting by the EOC in regards to security measures. Fred and Travis also attended the Hazmat drill in Two Rivers. In talking with people involved with the drill, there is a possibility of putting a two meter radio in both the Manitowoc and Two Rivers Hazmat trailers. Nancy Crowley said she will finance the project.

President Fred reminded all members that by Dec. 3rd. anyone who wishes to renew their license must have a FRN #. There are forms at the club house.

A warm welcome to all members and their families to the annual club picnic. It will be held at Lincoln Park, Cabin #1 from Noon to 6:00. Everyone is asked to bring their own drinks and a dish to pass. The club

will provide meat and buns. Also a corn roast, if that is still available. T-hunts will start at 1:00 with prizes. Also a T-hunt will be run for the kids, with prizes also. Horse shoes will also be set up.

A committee of at least 3 people is needed to organize a Hamfest. The Bil-Mar would charge 250.00 for a Sunday. There would be 75 tables. We could sell bakery and coffee. They run a Sunday buffet. Anyone willing to help, please contact Fred.

Red reported that he is going down to Grays Lake Hamfest. He is willing to pick up another repeater for the club as a spare. After some discussion it was agreed upon to give Red an 800.00 to 1000.00 spending allowance toward a new repeater.

The attendance drawing was held. WN9Q's (Dave) slip was drawn. He was not in attendance. The pot goes to 7.00

The next meeting will be held on Oct. 10th at the club shack at 7:30. Meeting adjourned with motions by Ken (K9HAG) and Dan (N9FVZ) at 8:34.

Respectively submitted
Theresa (KB9KXE)
Secretary

MEETING ATTENDANCE

W9NPX Roger	AA9WI Paul
W6BSF Fred	N9QFO Len
KB9YRC Travis	N9WUN Chuck
NZ9Z John	K9HAG Ken
KB9VLS Chris	KB9KXF Gene
N9OWD Dan	KB9INK Bob
KB9GOY Mary	KA9WYK Carl
N9GHE Red	KB9KXE Theresa
N9FVZ Dan	Ellen Ray
KB9NTL Don	

Lakeshore Repeater Association

147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402-9741 • wa9jmo@wi.net

The Lakeshore Repeater Association's fourth and last meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2001 in the lower classroom of the Racine American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine, beginning at 7:30 PM sharp. Highlighted agenda items will include our annual election, with Nomination Chair Dan Miller, KA9OIL, offering a slate of candidates for your consideration.

The candidates and offices are: For President, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO; for Vice-President, Bruce Goetzinger, KB9QZR; for Secretary, Mary Urban, N9WE; and for Treasurer, Bob Jensen, W0WLN. Prior to the election, the nomination chair will ask if there are any other nominations from the floor for the four listed offices.

We also will be given a status report on our current two-meter system followed by an in-depth report on the 442.000 MHz system, which we hope to have on the air from its new permanent location by our meeting date. Between the time this column is written and the date we meet, the reel of Hard-Line, sidearm, Antenna and installation hardware will have been moved to the tower site. Our climber will be doing a dual antenna install with the NOAA weather folks. The price break for us in this endeavor is a substantial savings that has made our Treasurer quite happy.

Depending on weather and the conclusion of another project, our climber will be doing the install during the week of October 15th or October 22nd.

We will also be re-visiting our participation in the Southeastern Wisconsin's Amateur Radio Recognition program. The project, operational for many years in our corner of the state seems to have fallen by the wayside with the in-activities of the Racine Megacycle Club.

The group still pursuing these activities is Chapter 162 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. It is hoped to expand this effort to once again include all of Southeastern Amateur Radio people. Please bring your discussions on this topic to the meeting on the 23rd.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Preceding the Lakeshore Repeater meeting at 6 PM in the same classroom will be the Racine and Kenosha ARES/RACES

group. With the tragedies that rocked our nation on September 11th, our thoughts have been occupied with "what-if" scenarios - What if something happen in our community? How would we deal with it? How can we assist in time of need? What do we have to do to become prepared?

Our concerns seemed to have reflected those of Racine County Sheriff Bill McReynolds, who will provide his training deputy's time and expertise on this topic during our October 23rd meeting. We will also invite the Kenosha County Sheriff's department to meet with us. We hope to look at what is in place, communication-wise, in Southeastern Wisconsin and try to improve upon it.

The need appears to be to locate individuals with VHF/UHF portable equipment willing to work with our municipalities' emergency needs; establish times they are normally available, and to provide a list of these assets to our communities Law-enforcement Agencies.

The Caledonia Snowmobile Club would like to work towards forming a search and rescue group. These feelings may emanate through other area organizations and we need to tap into these resources.

Southeast Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator John Leekley, WB9SMM, in view of our National Disaster, has asked our local ARES organizations to renew our contacts with our local Emergency Management, Police, Fire, and Red Cross to let them know we are still here, trained and available at a moment's notice to lend our assistance in any emergency.

I am sure that most, if not all of our municipalities have an emergency plan should we be visited by a disaster that taxes our capabilities. But the plan, locked in a binder, plays hell on the resources randomly thrown together and delegated to cope with these emergencies without the benefit or training that is associated with these community emergency plans.

We are now aware that our citizens may need our services in a hurry and to adequately respond, we need to train with our possible partners, explore our short falls, and train to be able to provide the best help we can, when we are called upon to serve.

Please, mark your calendars and join us on Tuesday, October 23, 2001, at 6 PM at the Racine American Red Cross building to share what you have to offer our citizens.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, President

Wisconsin Nets Association

Continued from page 7

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY AUGUST 2001

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
K9JPS	1	353	34	331	727 - BPL
W9PY	0	243	294	0	537 - BPL
N9VE	0	253	38	239	530 - BPL
K9GU	0	215	32	205	452 - BPL
W9RCW	0	225	12	214	451 - BPL
N9TVT	0	101	310	8	419
W9CBE	0	79	87	1	167
N9BDL	0	37	74	1	112
K9LGU	7	59	31	1	98
WA7UVX	3	43	36	9	91
K9FHI	0	30	57	0	87
W9IHW	0	25	44	0	69
N9KHD	0	30	36	0	66
AG9G	0	10	53	0	63
KE9VU	0	22	33	0	55

W9UW	0	32	16	0	48
KB9ROB	1	33	4	1	39
K9GB	0	7	30	0	37
AA9BB	0	0	31	0	31
K9HDF	0	0	30	0	30
W9BHL	0	0	29	0	29
W9YCV	1	3	20	1	25
WB9ICH	0	21	2	1	24
N9JIY	0	7	5	5	17

P S H R SUMMARY August 2001

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
K9JPS	44	24	9	331	1	10	0	0	419
N9VE	43	0	0	239	0	30	0	0	314
K9FHI	60	24	24	0	0	30	0	30	168
K9LGU	60	18	24	1	7	20	10	0	140
N9BDL	60	24	24	1	0	30	0	0	139
W9CBE	60	24	24	1	0	20	0	0	129
N9TVT	60	24	24	8	0	10	0	0	126
W9YCV	60	24	24	1	0	20	0	0	125
AG9G	60	24	18	0	0	10	0	0	112
WA7UVX	60	0	24	9	3	10	0	0	106
K9GB	24	12	0	0	0	10	0	30	76

Check us out on the web at

<http://www.bsss.org>

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI

Meeting Minutes
2 October 2001
Marshfield Clinic
Wausau Center

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by
President Mike Wild - KB9DED

Program: The program for this meeting consisted of a very informative presentation and demonstration of Radio Mobile Free-ware conducted by Mike KB9VBR. This software is used as a tool to predict the performance of radio systems. It can be used to calculate the coverage area of a radio system such as an FM repeater, or determine whether two stations are line of sight for VHF and UHF communications as this software utilizes digital terrain elevation data that can also be downloaded from the Internet. The maps and examples that Mike demonstrated were most interesting and informative.

Members present: N9TTA, N9SDI, N9SDL, W9WW, N9NRC, N9PHC, K9QM, KB9JMB, KC9AEJ, N9WPH, KB9YPS, N9NRA, KB9STB, N9UAG, KB9RXA, N9NMH, KB9OPQ, WB0BNR, KB9DED, N9MEA, KB9VBR, K9MCZ.

Secretary's report: Previous meeting notes as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site (<http://home.dwave.net/~wvra>). Motion to accept: N9WPH Second: KB9YPS

Treasurer's report: Motion to accept: N9NRA Second: KB9STB

Old Business:

1. Club members participated in the DNR Mock Fire exercise at Big Flats, WI on Saturday, September 8, 2001. It was an excellent training exercise that included use of APRS.

2. Club members also conducted an outing to the September 22-23 Ham Fest at Grayslake, IL, called Radio Expo 2001. Those that attended had a great time and found some great deals.

3. We are getting ready to build a colinear vertical antenna for our 220 MHz repeater. We have most parts needed to build it. If you want to help, contact Mike KB9VBR, Mike KB9DED, or Matt N9NMH.

4. If interested in participating in the annual Halloween Patrol on Sunday, October 28, from 4pm to approximately 10pm, contact Myron KB9STB. KB9DED and KB9VBR will do net control.

5. Photo I.D.'s will be done at future meetings as soon as Mike KB9DED gets a printer.

6. The Ham Radio Licensing Class is still on hold. We are trying to get more participants to sign-up for this class.

New Business:

1. The WVRA encourages all to visit our Club Website at home.dwave.net/~wvra/. Also, Scott KB9PVI, is looking for short items from members to include on the club website. (minimum of 1 paragraph). Please send to him at winterscott@hotmail.com.

2. The Dream Flight Program format will probably see changes next year. The Club is trying to determine the status of the future Dream Flight Program and determine what to do with Club equipment still at school locations. Kim N9SDL will be trying to get information on this subject.

3. The Club Board has requested input from the Club membership on any suggestions for programs they might like to see at future meetings. Please see a board member anytime with your suggestions.

4. Jon KC9AEJ and Mark N9MEA have volunteered to form a sub-committee for the purpose of writing a Grant Proposal for obtaining a Service Monitor (Test Equipment that will be used in setting up and maintaining Club radio equipment.)

5. Mike KB9VBR, who is the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Marathon County, will be working on setting up an ARES Emergency Phone Tree to be used for emergency call up of radio operators.

6. An S.E.T. (simulated emergency test) will be conducted on Saturday, October 6, 2001. An area ARES Net will be called up in the early morning on that day as part of the test.

7. Information brought back from the Ham Fest: for call sign badges, signs, license plates, etc., visit www.thesignman.com. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Motion to adjourn: N9WPH Second: KB9STB

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 6, 2001, at 7pm at the Marshfield Clinic, Wausau Center cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the employee parking lot on the West side of the building. Call in on the 2m club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 146.54 (pl 114.8).

November Program: To be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Barr, K9MCZ
(k9mcz@arrl.net)
WVRA Secretary

The text of the message is, of course, of a non-commercial nature. It should be limited to 25 words or less. It doesn't include any elements of the preamble, address, or signature. The text is set off from the rest of the message by using the word "break" (BT on CW, RTTY, AMTOR, or PACKET) before sending the text and just after the text before the signature. Separators in the text are X's, read as "initial X-ray" when sending the message but never read to the recipient of the message. Just pause a little at the end of each word group when you're delivering a message.

When counting the text for the check, each word, initial group (QTH), mixed group (407TH), figure group (2332), city, state, name, etc. is ONE count. Phone numbers in the text are split into three parts -- area, prefix, and four-digit suffix -- and counted as THREE text counts. The separators (X-rays) get a count of one, too. Words which belong apart from another word (well-being) are separated and counted as TWO. Words which are natural compounds and are written together (makeshift) stay together and are counted as ONE.

If a text contains one or more ARL numbers from the Standard ARL Numbered Radio-gram List, the check always reads "ARL #." Where # is the number of words in the text including the ARL and ARL numbers in the

count. For example, "ARL Sixty One and Love to All" would be counted as six. The check would be "ARL 6." ARL numbers are always spelled out in the text. It's "ARL SIXTY ONE" not ARL 61. Of course, when the message is delivered, the delivering station should always translate the ARL numbers for the recipient, even if it's a ham.

The signature should be a complete as needed for the recipient. If it's to a family member or close friend, "Dad" or "Julie" would suffice. If not, both first and last names are recommended. If the message is from an official, be sure to include the person's title. If the signature includes other data, such as a membership number, Email address or service number, take special care to get the info right. One digit makes a difference.

When you've finished sending or relaying a message, you say, "End of message; No more." Of course if you have more to send, you'd say "End of message, three more" or however many you have left to send to this receiving station.

Handling traffic isn't difficult. Operating aids such as the pink card (FSD-218) and the ARRL Net Directory will answer most of your questions about traffic and the NTS. If not, look for your STM on one of the section nets.

73 — K9LGU/STM WI

MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2001

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1181	1508	2250	30	W9IHW for W9RCW
BE					
W9BN	523	76	798	29	K9FHI
WNN	149	17	332	30	KB9ROB
WSSN	180	15	290	30	N9BDL
WIN/E	185	41	299	30	WB9ICH
WIN/L	193	55	350	30	W9LJW
totals	2789	1758	5030	08	

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2001

STATION	ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
K9JPS	0	518	36	509	1063 - BPL
W9IHW	0	299	3	227	04 - BPL
W9YPY	0	208	246	0	454
N9VE	0	192	33	192	417 - BPL
N9TVT	0	97	304	4	405
K9GU	0	186	29	186	401 - BPL
K9FHI	0	64	74	1	139
N9BDL	0	45	80	1	70
K9LJW	2	46	17	0	65
KG9B	0	9	40	0	49
KB9VU	0	15	32	0	8
W9CBE	0	26	16	2	44
W9YCV	0	137	23	4	41
KB9ROB	0	31	3	1	35
W9LJW	0	28	4	0	32
WA7UVX	2	13	9	6	30
AA9BB	0	0	30	0	30
W9BHL	0	0	30	0	30
K9HDF	0	0	25	0	25
N9KHD	0	10	14	0	24
WD9FLJ	13	4	4	3	24
WB9ICH	0	15	2	0	17
N9JTY	0	1	14	1	16
W9RSX	0	2	8	2	12
K9UTQ	0	2	4	0	6
WA9ZTY	0	2	1	0	3

P S H R SUMMARY September 2001

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	T
K9JPS	41	24	18	509	0	10	0	0	622
N9VE	48	3	0	192	0	30	10	0	283
K9FHI	60	24	24	1	0	30	0	30	169
N9BDL	60	24	24	1	0	30	0	0	139
WD9FLJ	37	0	24	13	4	20	0	30	138
W9YCV	60	24	24	4	1	20	0	0	133
N9TVT	60	24	24	4	0	10	0	0	122
K9LGU	60	12	24	0	2	20	0	0	118
AG9G	60	24	18	0	0	10	0	0	112
WA7UVX	60	0	24	6	2	10	0	0	102
KG9B	28	15	0	0	0	10	0	30	83

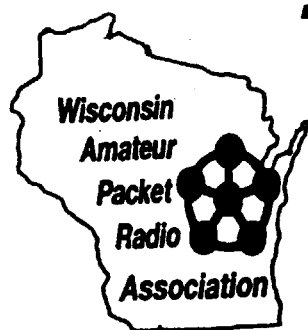
WISCONSIN SECTION STM REPORT

STM Report Wisconsin Section
September, 2001

More Message Massage

The address in a message is easy, but it's often not done correctly. Be sure to get the complete information from the person for whom you're sending the message. If the

message to addressed to someone in the military, the MARS system, into which your message may be refiled, requires the service-person's Social Security Number and full military address. Some programs also need the sender's full address, so it wouldn't hurt to include that in the signature. An accurate address is a necessity -- and makes prompt delivery a lot more likely.



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer
W8929 Highway K, Lodi, WI 53555

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor - 453 Cottage Grove Avenue - Green Bay, WI 54304 - e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - October, 2001

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Hello again and welcome to October. I am sure we are all glad to leave September, and it's horrible news behind.

I'm sure you know that I am referring to the horrid terrorist attacks, and the resultant events that followed. Let's all hope that this situation is dealt with in a manner that holds loss of life to a minimum, and that we Americans and our friends the world over are safe and secure. As of this writing in late September, the situation is still murky and it looks like we are headed for some very uncertain times. Let's hope things get better soon and the heroes that gave their lives in this tragedy aren't joined by any more.

Last month I wrote about the two variants of the "Code Red" worm and the problems it had been causing on the internet. September brought us another one, the "Nimda" (Admin spelled backwards) worm. This one affects both servers and home-type client systems. It looks like this one may be with us for a while, as it has 3 ways to spread.

This again points out the vulnerability of the internet when it comes to packet forwarding. You may remember from last month that "Code Red" caused quite a problem for internet routers that handled amateur radio traffic. As of this writing, I have not yet seen the same kind of effect from the "Nimda" worm as we saw with "Code Red". Only time will tell if we see the same kind of problems.

At the risk of sounding alarmist, I say we may want to carefully consider our role as packet operators in these trying times. Can we handle traffic should the internet become unavailable to us for some reason? Are we ready to do our part in handling emergency traffic should (heaven forbid) another disaster occur? Are our networks up to the task? Are our BBSs and nodes configured correctly? And are our nodes capable of operation on emergency power? These are things to consider now, before anything else bad happens.

It's good to think about these kinds of things for any potential emergency situation, not just for internet problems or something related to terrorism. While we were all captivated by the biggest news story most of us have ever seen, Amateurs were also dealing with other, more frequently seen disasters at the time of the terrorist attacks.

We must be ready to do our part should any disaster, whether it be the a tornado, wildfire, flooding or hazardous chemical spill or something as unusual and insane as we saw on September 11th. This is something that we have to think about in our role as emergency communicators.

On to something more pleasant. I am pleased to announce the coming WAPR meeting to be held at the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club Swapfest on November 4th. We plan to meet at 11:00 A.M. in a room at the Swapfest site, the Sabre Lanes in Menasha. This is a well-attended swapfest that draws people from all over the state, and we hope to see a lot of people (including you!) at the meeting.

To get to the Sabre Lanes, get to Highway 441 and exit at Appleton Road South (exit number 47). From there, it's only a couple of blocks to the Sabre Lanes.

This is a "full-featured fest", meaning that there will be license exams for prospective hams and all kinds of neat stuff, like snacks and door prizes. So if you needed more reason to come aside from the WAPR meeting,

there you have it! Hope to see you there.

That's all for now. Want more news? Send me some at one of the addresses at the top of the page. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Net/Rom Node Information for the Sysop Part Seven

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

This is part 7 of a series designed to help node Sysops learn more about the popular TheNet X-1J series of nodes. We'll skip over the more common user commands and devote our discussion to commands used by the Sysop. In this part, we'll look at the CALIBRATE, CLOSEDOWN, CTEXT, DXCLUSTER and DXCALLIAS commands.

CALIBRATE

The CALIBRATE command is used in initial setup and maintenance of the node. This command keys the transmitter up to 60 seconds with alternating audio tones, which would allow you to set the transmitter deviation on a node. It would also allow you to remotely key another X-1J node, allowing you to look at the receiver audio, which can be quite helpful in diagnosing receiver problems.

Here's a little bit of "review" information that will be helpful in understanding one form of the command; packet data is sent by alternating between two audio tones when transmitting in AFSK mode. In FSK mode, it alternates between two radio frequencies. The CALIBRATE command allows you to send alternating audio or radio tones for up to 60 seconds. Additionally, you can specify how long to alternate the tones within the transmit time period of the command.

The syntax of the CALIBRATE command is:

CALIBRATE (total transmit time, 1-60 seconds)
(toggle interval)

The command can also be shortened to CAL. Here's an example of usage:

CAL 20 10

This would set the node to transmit for 10 seconds at one of the audio tones, and 10 seconds of the other tone for a total of 20 seconds.

One special note concerning this command - remember that your TNC has a time-out timer to keep the node from transmitting too long should the node lock up. If that timer is set for 30 seconds and you specify a calibration transmission of 60 seconds, you'll only get a 30 second transmission.

CLOSEDOWN A

This command is almost self-explanatory. When issued, the node will prompt you for the Sysop password, just as if you had entered the SYSOP command. I will not detail exactly how the SYSOP command works for security reasons. Once you have successfully given the correct SYSOP response, the node will stop transmitting and can't be accessed.

No routing tables or other operating parameters will be removed from the node's memory. However, in order to reactivate the node, a power-up reset will need to be performed. This means you will have to go to the node site and cycle the power off and then back on. Therefore, caution is in order - you will want to carefully consider whether you really want to use the CLOSEDOWN command.

CTEXT

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24 HOURS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH AN ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTERST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

_____ YES: I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues will go to pay the subscription. Cost \$20.00.

_____ NO: I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke signals as part of WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00.

Complete and return this form with your check or money order — \$15.00 for membership only or \$20.00 for membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Larry Shields, WD9ESU, Treasurer,
W8929 Highway K
Lodi, WI 53555

No routing tables or other operating parameters will be removed from the node's memory. However, in order to reactivate the node, a power-up reset will need to be performed. This means you will have to go to the node site and cycle the power off and then back on. Therefore, caution is in order - you will want to carefully consider whether you really want to use the CLOSEDOWN command.

CTEXT

This command sets or clears the text that users will see when they connect to the node. It takes the same form as other text commands, such as BTEXT. For example,

CTEXT *

will clear the existing connect text from the node's memory.

CTEXT Welcome to the WAPR Network Node!

Causes the node to return "Welcome to the WAPR Network Node" when a user connects to the node. There are two things to consider when entering the connect text. Like other text commands, the connect text is limited to 160 bytes, which is enough for 80 characters (including letters, spaces, and control characters). If you forget to clear the existing text, whatever you enter will be added to the existing text.

DXCLUSTER

This command specifies the call-sign of a DXCluster node or station that a user can connect to by issuing the DX command when connected to the node, or when a user sends a connect request to the DXALIAS (see below). It operates in the same manner as the BBS command, and it takes the same forms.

DXCLUSTER *

Clears the current DXCLUSTER setting.

DXCLUSTER ?

When entered, the node will return the call-sign of the current DXCLUSTER.

DXCLUSTER WX9APR-1

This will set the DXCLUSTER to WX9APR-1. A node user will be connected to this station when the DX command is sent to the node.

DXCALIAS

This operates in the same manner as the BBSALIAS command that we covered in our last installment. This allows the node to act on behalf of a DX Cluster node or station. For example, if a DX Cluster node or station is not operating on a local LAN frequency and is accessible to the node through the network, a user can simply send a connect request to the DX Cluster alias and be connected via the node. This appears as a transparent connection to the user, as though he or she were connected directly to the DX Cluster station. In fact, the node is acting on behalf of the node, "faking it". As with DXCLUSTER, the command takes three forms:

DXCALIAS *

Clears the current alias.

DXCALIAS ?

Displays the current alias, and

DXCALIAS (call-sign or alias)

will set the DXCALIAS to the specified call-sign or alias. Here's an example:

DXCALIAS WAPRDX

will allow a user to send a connect request to WAPRDX and get connected to a remote DX Cluster as set by the DXCLUSTER command. In the above example we used for the DXCLUSTER command, this would



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 W. 2nd St., Reedsburg, WI 53959-1500



The September 4, 2001 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club was cancelled at 7:42 p.m. by club President Steve Schulze, N9UDO as there were but three members, including Steve, in attendance (no quorum). So, we went for a tour of the radio/television station instead. Great time was had by all.

NEXT MEETING - Nomination/elections of club officers - Tuesday October 2, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. Baraboo Civic Center.

Respectfully submitted:
Raymond J Matlosz, N9MLZ
club secretary.

The following members were present:

Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg

be WX9APR-1.

One thing that should be noted concerning any alias-based command. If you are going to be using a someone else's call-sign rather than an alias, you should inform the owner of that call-sign and get his or her co-operation. After all, the call-sign belongs to someone else, and they should know that you're node will respond to that call-sign.

That's all for this part. Next month, we'll continue our alphabetical exploration of the Sysop commands for these nodes.

Until then, 73 from Andy.

(Continued from page 3)

THE TESTPOINT

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2001 test fee at \$10.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to

have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.shtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

rections to the sites and contact information please see last months issue of BSSS or check on our web site at <http://www.smokesigs.org>



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